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ON PAGE 2-A

USA TODAY  
25 July 1985

# Rebel leader missing

## 'Commander Zero' still an enigma

One thing certain about Nicaraguan guerrilla leader Eden Pastora is the uncertainty about him.

Better known as "Commander Zero," the rebel leader has confused friend and foe alike.

True to his character, Wednesday reports about his death were contradictory. Depending on who is speaking, Pastora, 49, disappeared on a mission inside Nicaragua or is safe in Panama.

"This confusion is typical of him... Will the real Eden Pastora please stand up," said David MacMichael, a former CIA analyst.



AP

PASTORA: Reports on whereabouts are contradictory

A former Sandinista who rose to become deputy defense minister before defecting in 1981, Pastora was perhaps the

greatest military hero in the Sandinista fight against the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship.

Over the past four years as leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, he has become the "contra" leader the Sandinista regime loves to hate. The official Sandinista propaganda machinery often calls him "Cain."

He's been labeled swash-buckling, charismatic and an egomaniac. He calls himself a "true Sandinista" and blames the CIA and the Sandinistas for the 1984 bombing that seriously wounded him, 26 others, and killed three journalists.

He sees the men in Nicaragua as Cains who have betrayed their revolution and sold it out to communism.

— Juan J. Waite

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